and Madras Ports are Rs. 40.94 per tonne and Rs. 39 per tonne respectively.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Do not arise.

Cargo Traffic handled by Paradip Port

2240. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total volume of cargo traffic handled by Paradip Port during 1987-88;

(b) what is the cargo traffic estimated in that port during 1988-89; and

(c) what are the details of the cargo proposed to be handled by Paradip Port during 1988-89?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) During 1987-88 Paradip Port handled 5.187 million tonnes of cargo.

(b) and (c) During the first six months of the year (April 1988 to September, 1988), the Port has handled the following traffic:—

(in lakh tonnes)

Name of Commodity	Traffic
Iron Ore	8.86
Fertilizer and Fertilizer raw material	3.68
Thermal Coal	3.72
Coking Coal	5.83
Others	6.85
TOTAL	28.94

It is expected that in the remaining six months the Port will handle approximately an equal amount of cargo with more or less the same commodity composition.

Issue of passports

2241. SHRI YALLA SESI BHUSHANA RAO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps were taken by Government to examine recommendations made by the Conference of All-India Passport Office held in January, 1988;

(b) what steps have been taken to reduce the delay in the issue of passports; and

(c) what steps are being taken to eliminate the role of touts in obtaining passports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. Steps have already been taken to implement the recommendations made in the Passport Officers Conference held in January, 1988.

(b) Delay in the issue of passports is mainly due to delay in the receipt of police verification reports of applicants. The Chief Ministers of all the States and Administrators of Union Territories as well as all Chief Secretaries have been requested to issue instructions to respective police authorities to arrange expeditious police verification of passport applicants. Passport Officers have also been instructed to check all applications on receipt for complete particulars in order to avoid subsequent correspondence and delays. All old cases of delays are reviewed periodically and reminders sent to the concerned verifying authorities under intimation to the applicants.

(c) For the convenience of the Public clear guidelines have been given at the entrance of every passport office, regarding method of obtaining forms/passports, and for the identification of various counters. Specific complaints against activities of touts are taken up with the concerned police authorities.